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upon gross materialistic satisfactions and supports, and through that probably weakest of all weaknesses which comes from leaving ignorant, crude and flabby the masses, or any considerable sections of the masses, of the population.

### **A Lesson of the Earthquake.**

The appalling calamity which has destroyed San Francisco and left three hundred thousand people for the time houseless and helpless has called forth such an exhibition of sympathy and practical helpfulness as has probably never before been witnessed in human history. The amount which has been contributed by the nation for relief amounts at this moment to nearly \$25,000,000. The national Congress, State legislatures, municipalities, chambers of commerce, business corporations, churches, clubs and societies of every kind, daily papers, men, women and children, rich and poor alike, have joined in the great contribution for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of the stricken city. Great trains loaded to the roof with supplies have sped like the wind across the continent and poured their treasures out at the feet of the needy. Even the hands of Europe and Asia have been generously stretched across the seas to help.

It has been — after making all proper allowance for the superficial and spasmodic — a marvelous phenomenon of human sympathy and fraternity, creditable in the highest degree to the people of the nation and of the world. It has revealed a wealth of unselfish social interest and fellow feeling and regard which few of us had suspected to exist. It has made us feel that the race, after all, is less sordid and gross and selfish and mean than we had sometimes been tempted to believe. It has deepened our respect for humanity and enlarged and strengthened our faith in the future greatness and spiritual glory of human society. It has given us a conception of the unity of the world, and of what that unity means in practical exercise, which we had before only half realized. How easy it is to-day, with our wires and railways and cables and swift ships and immeasurable resources, for men to be one, to move and act together, to bear one another's burdens, and share one another's blessings and joys! People who can do, almost with the quickness of the lightning, what has been done at San Francisco, at Courrières, in starving Japan, at Vesuvius — what is there which they cannot do to serve and help one another, if there be first a willing and determined mind!

Earthquakes are unavoidable calamities, at any rate, in the present state of the scientific control of the world. In thinking over the way in which sympathy and coöperative goodwill have mastered the San Francisco earthquake, to the extent at any rate of saving its victims from many of the most fearful results that would have come of it, we

have been compelled to picture to ourselves what might be done to save the world entirely from any repetition of the calamity of war, if only an attempt could be made to do so with the same depth of feeling, intensity and unity of goodwill and swiftness of action that have characterized the effort to save the earthquake victims. A great war like that in Manchuria is tenfold more appalling in destruction of property, in loss of life, in the ruin of homes, in whatever way you judge it, than any earthquake that has ever rent the earth and swallowed up men and cities. Try a moment's figuring on it.

But war is a perfectly preventable calamity always. It happens by the will and work of men; never otherwise. If men had their way, we should have no more earthquakes — not even for the cultivation of the spirit of benevolence, much less for the sake of developing heroism and other manly virtues; and as for "brilliancy" and "glory," these seismic catastrophes are considered a very sorry field. It is even most difficult to be patient with nature for letting them loose upon us. We bow in helpless submission, that is all. If men only felt so about war, which they are perfectly able to prevent, the direful scourge would be at once and forever banished from the world. The demonstration of the moral and practical power of living, united, universal, coöperative human interest and sympathy exhibited in the swift relief of San Francisco leaves no longer any excuse for war at any time or at any place in our world of men. It can be banished the moment that men wish it to be; and this unique and magnificent exhibition of the growing spirit of unity and mutual service among men leads us to believe that at no distant day it will rise to a still greater and more glorious accomplishment, and rid the world of its oldest and most shameful evil.

### **Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.**

The seventy-eighth annual business meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Society's room, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, on Friday, May 18, at 2 o'clock P. M., to receive the annual reports of the directors and the treasurer, to choose officers for the coming year, and to transact any other business properly coming before the meeting.

The annual dinner for the members and their friends will be given in the evening of the same day at half-past six o'clock at the rooms of the Twentieth Century Club, 3 Joy Street. Tickets for the dinner will be ONE DOLLAR each, and should be applied for without delay.

The speakers of the evening will be Hon. Richard Bartholdt, Member of Congress from Missouri and President of the Interparliamentary Group in Congress, and Mr. Bliss Perry, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* and